

and for the Constitution of the United States  
as having been divinely inspired.

## Howdown On Berlin?

ING on the wall is be-  
in the aftermath of  
l—and illegal—liquida-  
of Soviet commandant in

gnificant for a number  
he London Times has  
stage in the long cam-  
ne the position of the  
a Berlin. It is an aban-  
nsibility by Soviet au-  
could be less accessible  
means the Russians are  
en ever in reducing ten-  
discussion.

t, it seems to be a step  
g-threatened signing of  
treaty with East Ger-

vidently is to force the  
all questions of access  
East German regime we  
he next step, of course,  
obtain formal recogni-  
any.

d not do. Why? Be-  
laying into Soviet Pre-

mier Khrushchev's hands by dividing the  
Allies and West Germany.

The Kremlin is not so much interested  
in official recognition, as such, of East  
Germany as it is in who recognizes East  
Germany. That's why Moscow hardly  
lifted a finger to help East Germany in  
its unsuccessful efforts to be recognized  
by Ghana, Guinea, and even Cuba.

Instead, the Kremlin wants recognition  
of East Germany by the U.S., Britain and  
France solely because it would drive a  
wedge between the Big Three and West  
Germany. That's because West Germany  
hopes ultimately that the two Germanys  
will be reunited, but Allied recognition of  
East Germany would be taken to mean our  
acquiescence to a permanent division of  
Germany.

**THE ALLIES MUST** avoid getting put  
into such a position because it might  
tempt West Germany to seek reunification  
by going over to the Communists—which  
would be a tragedy because of West Ger-  
many's strategic location and industrial  
might.

Moreover, if we were pushed out of  
Berlin by this or any other means, it  
might be seen as a sign that our will to  
resist encroachments on what's rightfully  
ours had weakened. This, in turn, could set  
off a whole new round of Communist  
pressure and aggression elsewhere in the  
world.

Still, the day seems to be coming when  
Russia may well carry out its threat to  
sign a separate peace treaty with East  
Germany.

What will we do then? What action will  
we take if East Germany, instead of the

## WAGON TRACKS ON DESERT GHASTLY REMAINDER OF-

# The Donner-Reed Tragedy



By WILLIAM B. SMART  
(Editor, Editorial Page, The  
Deseret News)

**P**ETE McKELLAR is not the  
sort of man to see ghosts.  
His ranch at the base of Pilot  
Peak demands too much of a man's  
attention and energies to afford  
him the luxury of dreaming of the  
past or feeling the presence of its  
long-dead actors.

But if ever a man lived amid  
ghostly whispers of a dramatic  
past, Pete McKellar is that man.

His clapboard ranch house looks  
down on the last 10 miles of the  
sticky, salty mud flats through  
which men and women and oxen  
and mules plodded in desperate

## Slimy Salt, Mud And Steep Hills Stalled Party; Set Stage For Mutiny And Starvation.

### 40-Mile Grassless Stretch

**W**HY travel 250 miles farther  
than necessary? he de-  
manded. Why follow the old trail  
in the great arc it made northwest  
from Fort Bridger to Fort Hall,  
then southwest again to the Hum-  
boldt River in Nevada? Why not  
strike out across the Wasatch,  
past the south end of the lake, and  
straight across the desert to the  
Humboldt?

There were some slight diffi-  
culties, to be sure, the greatest of  
them being a 40-mile stretch with-  
out grass or water across the salt

same area, and seven more days of  
resting and hauling out mired  
wagons before they were able to  
move on toward California.

Following their trace, it was  
easy to see why. The first part of  
the trail west from the low, long  
line of hills known as the Grey-  
back wandered through head-high  
sand dunes, where dense clouds of  
dust nearly suffocated the early  
travellers. It must have been  
hardly an encouraging approach to  
the much more terrible ordeal that  
lay ahead.

In this area, a single plant spe-

Five wagons of the Donner-  
Reed party were left forever in the  
desert. No complete record is avail-  
able of the number of animals lost.  
One survivor set it at 36. James  
Reed entered the desert with nine  
yoke of oxen, two to a yoke. He  
left it with one ox and a cow.

\* \* \*

### Even Hope Was An Illusion

**B**Y THE time the party had  
forced its way to within three  
or four miles of Floating Island,  
loads were being dropped and  
wagons abandoned. From there it  
became a grim battle for mere sur-  
vival as teams were cut loose from  
their mired wagons and driven west  
toward the promised water.

Disappointment dogged every

